**Majuli Island**

679. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning any special package to Majuli Island for development of the Island to attract more tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and major steps taken for conservation of the century old cultural heritage of the Island; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under following schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.
3. Information Technology
4. Fairs/Festival and Events

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned a project-Development of Heritage & Ecotourism Resort at Majuli for Rs. 382.25 lakh to the Government of Assam in the 10th plan.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs, 6635.61 lakh during the 10th five year plan and Rs. 3379.51 lakh during the first two years of the 11th five year plan, to the Government of Assam for various tourism projects.

**Recognition of Tourist Destination in Assam**

680. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposals from the State Government of Assam for recognition and development of various locations as tourist destinations, which are popular among visitors from various parts of the country and abroad within the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details of such places and steps taken for facilitating tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under following schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits

2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

3. Information Technology

4. Fairs/Festival and Events

Proposals which are complete in all respect as per guidelines are processed on *inter-se* priority basis and funds are released subject to availability under the respective head of accounts.

The details of projects sanctioned to the Government of Assam during the 11th five year plan are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Projects sanctioned to the State of Assam during the 11th five year plan*

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl.No. | Name of the Project | Amount Sanctioned |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | | |
| 1 | Development of Barak Valley and Two Hill district in Southern Assam. | 605.42 |
| 2 | Development of Tourist Circuit (Western Assam Circuit) Dhubari-Mahamaya-Barpeta-hajo | 497.94 |
| 3 | Setting up of a Sound & Light show at Talatal ghar, in Shibasagar district | 158.54 |
| 4 | Celebration of Dehing Patkai Festival, 2007 | 5.00 |
| 5 | Celebration of Tea Tourism Festival, 2007 | 5.00 |
| | TOTAL | 1271.90 |
| 2008-09 | | |
| 1 | Development of Tourist Circuit- Kaliabor-Jakhalabandha - Nagaon | 669.40 |
| 2 | Development of Buddhist Tourist Circuit in Assam | 652.57 |
| 3 | Dev. Of Tourist Circuit -Dibru Saikhowa National Park-Makum-Margherita-Digboi, Assam | 332.15 |
| 4 | Dev. of Tourist Circuit Kaziranga - Sivasagar- Majuli-Jorhat (East Assam Circuit) | 453.49 |
| | TOTAL | 2107.61 |
| | GRAND TOTAL | 3379.51 |

**Cruise Tourism**

681. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India with its vast coastline, which is still highly untapped, could emerge as a potential hub for cruise tourism; and